# FirstNet in North Carolina

Allan Sadowski
Director of Infrastructure Planning – FirstNetNC
Office of Digital Infrastructure

# What is the need?

Interoperable Communications –
The Greatest Need for Safety Responders

**Provide a reliable and resilient wireless broadband network**

**Rugged, easy to use devices designed to meet emergency response needs and requirements**

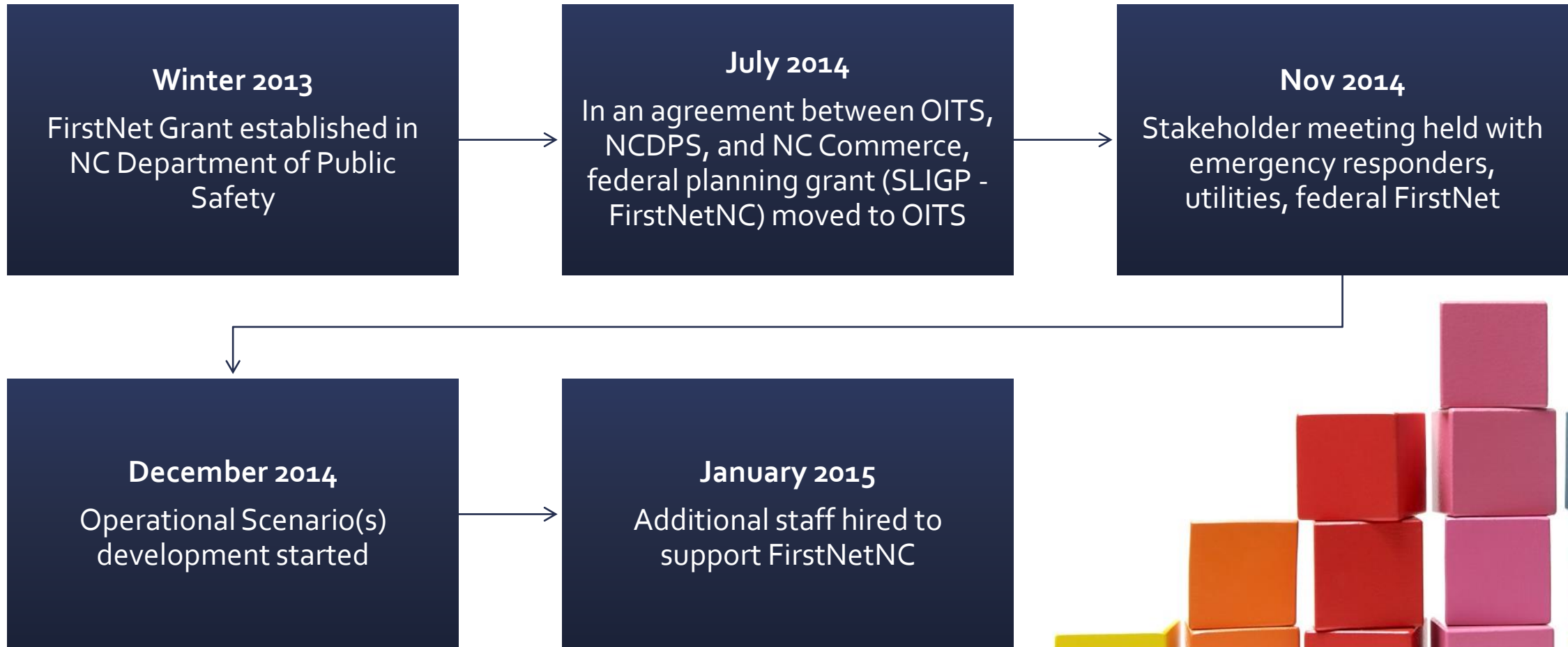**Improve communications with mission critical data and saving lives**

# Introducing FirstNet

- The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 establishes responsibility for building and operating a Nationwide Public Safety Wireless Broadband System

- FirstNet is a 4G **wireless data communications** cellular network providing emergency responders with a robust data interoperability capability – where none exists or for when commercial services are overloaded or under duress (hurricanes, ice storms, beach weekends)

# Putting FirstNetNC Together

**Winter 2013**
FirstNet Grant established in NC Department of Public Safety

**July 2014**
In an agreement between OITS, NCDPS, and NC Commerce, federal planning grant (SLIGP - FirstNetNC) moved to OITS

**Nov 2014**
Stakeholder meeting held with emergency responders, utilities, federal FirstNet

**December 2014**
Operational Scenario(s) development started

**January 2015**
Additional staff hired to support FirstNetNC

# What IS FirstNet?

- ✓ DATA, VIDEO, IMAGE & TEXT

- ✓ INTEROPERABILITY

- ✓ DEDICATED, RELIABLE NETWORK FOR ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS

# Covering the state

*The challenge: Providing SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE to 700+ emergency response agencies, 100 counties, and a federally recognized tribe in coverage areas including urban and rural*

To meet this challenge, FirstNet will use land-based cellular, as well as satellite and deployable systems to provide coverage

**4G LTE** is **10X**

faster than 3G wireless service

# Who are the users?

# So what's the difference?



compared to

**Today's low speed data options**
Low Pressure = Low Bandwidth
Local = Limited access and coverage

**Future Emergency Response Broadband**
High Pressure = High Bandwidth
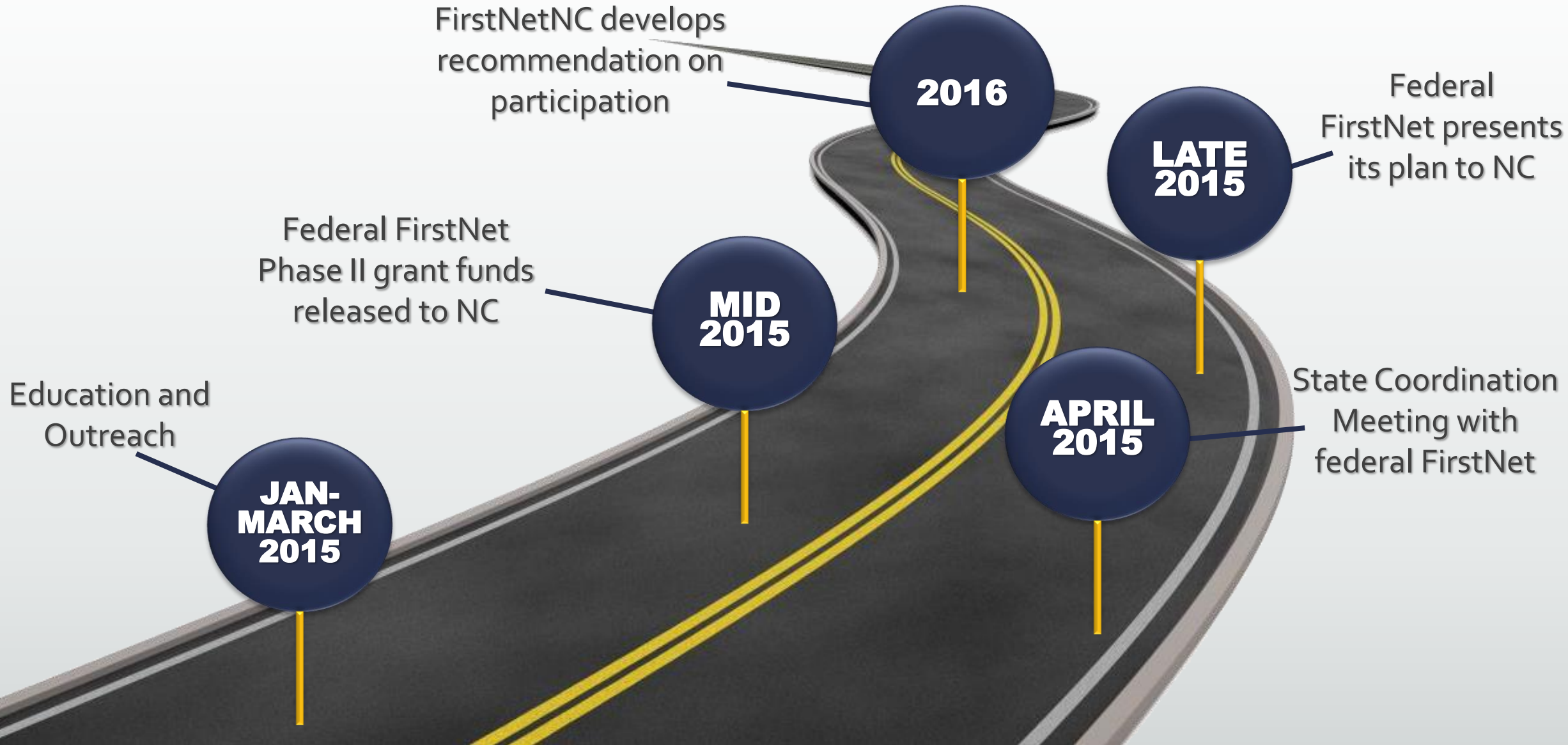Mobile = Full access and coverage where needed
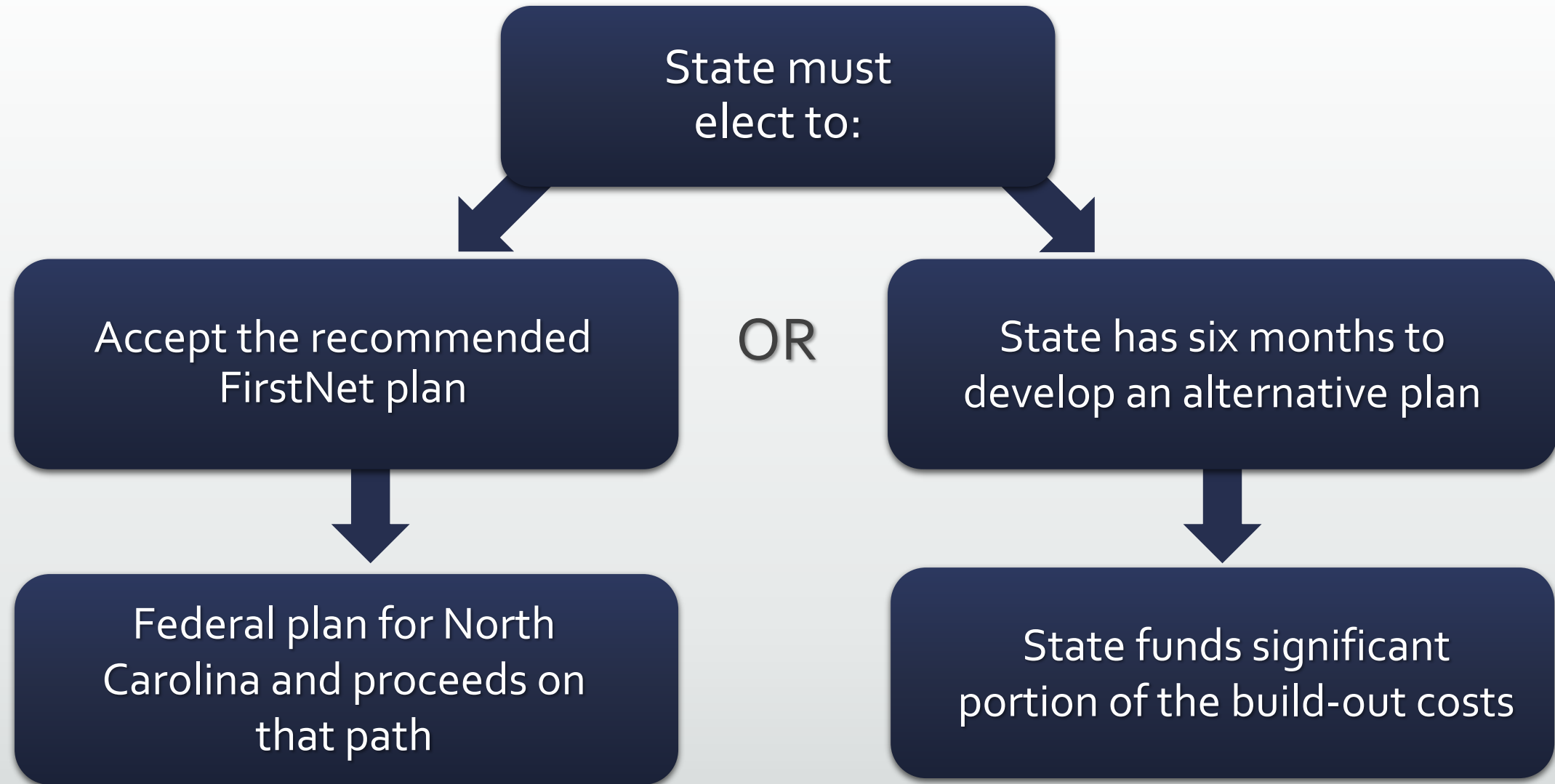
# How do we get there?

- Education, outreach, and planning

- Identify requirements and needs, design, and data gathering

- Use of existing state, local and commercial infrastructure where available

- Partnership with utilities, telecommunication companies, and critical infrastructure providers is crucial to success

- Develop partnerships with organizations, associations, and stakeholders to gain feedback, support and recommendations

# Future FirstNet Timeline

FirstNetNC develops recommendation on participation

**2016**

**LATE 2015**

Federal FirstNet presents its plan to NC

Federal FirstNet Phase II grant funds released to NC

**MID 2015**

Education and Outreach

**JAN-MARCH 2015**

**APRIL 2015**

State Coordination Meeting with federal FirstNet

# The State's Decision

State must elect to:

Accept the recommended FirstNet plan

OR

State has six months to develop an alternative plan

Federal plan for North Carolina and proceeds on that path

State funds significant portion of the build-out costs

# Common Questions & Concerns

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## *How much is this going to cost?*

**Public Retail Rates**
T-Mobile
ATT
Verizon
Sprint

**Government Plans**

Verizon ($40/ Unlimited – State Rate)

Verizon ($25/ Unlimited – special rate)

FIRSTNET

Charlotte BTOP Business Case - $46/user

3 startups - $0/user

Text "FirstNetNC" to 22828 to receive updates

# Common Questions & Concerns

*Will FirstNet replace our Land Mobile Radio systems (LMR)?*

No, FirstNet is a DATA system

There are NO plans to use FirstNet to replace existing voice communications

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# Common Questions & Concerns

## *Is this a mandate from the state?*

No, while the state is under a federal mandate to provide education, outreach, and requirements gathering for an emergency response wireless data system, there is no plan to force any emergency response entity in North Carolina to join FirstNet.

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# Common Questions & Concerns

*How soon will it be available and will we have coverage in my town?*

We anticipate at 4 to 6 years before we see FirstNet frequencies in active use in North Carolina

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# Common Questions & Concerns

*Who is going to build it?*

This has not yet been decided. However, FirstNet is intending on using existing infrastructure that is already in place but understands that this is not sufficient to gain the full reach into the rural areas where the service is needed.

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# But most importantly,

# We need you!

Text "FirstNetNC" to 22828 to receive updates

# Stay in touch!

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# Time for your Questions?

# Thank you